

EDITORIALS

Science and the 'Why?'

The wonders, and the wonderings, of science were a provocative topic of California news last week. The brilliant men and women who met in Berkeley during the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science ranged in their discussions from deep sea fish that sing so loudly they disturb submarine detection devices, to the universe itself, which is expanding like a new father's chest.

Perhaps the most disturbing thought was offered by Dr. Alan Gregg, a vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Gregg likened man to a cancer cell on the body of the earth. The doctor's speculation was based upon man's turbulent numerical growth — from a total world population of 500 million in 1500 A.D. to 2,300 million today — and his tendency to destroy the natural resources around him.

Man, of course, is not entirely destructive. Every day we see around us evidence that he is aware of the necessity of preserving those riches upon which life depends. Enlightened producers of oil and lumber and gas, of coal and electricity and food, are striving constantly to find new ways of utilizing most frugally our natural resources.

The answer to Dr. Gregg's speculation on the nature of man is hard to find. But Professor Joseph Mayer of Miami University, Ohio, also speaking at the AAAS meeting, set up a sign post. He said that "there is evidence of purpose everywhere, with man obviously a part of that purpose," and that the scientific approach to the mysteries of life is made simpler "if one starts with a belief in the primacy of spiritual values."

Amen.

Sammy's Comeback

The sensational comeback of Sammy Davis, Jr., the 28-year-old entertainer who lost an eye in a traffic accident a few months ago, is one of the real heart warming stories of show business.

To a man of less courage, the accident might have meant the end of a career. But Sammy Davis made up his mind that he would carry on again just as soon as he was physically able. And that he did, making his comeback appearance before a sellout crowd of celebrities at a top Hollywood night club. And while sympathy and the desire to give a fellow entertainer a hand may have attracted some of the stars in the audience, Sammy proved that his physical handicap is no handicap to his style as a showman.

The moral of the story is obvious: A man is never licked until he stops trying.

Keep Your Guard Up

As the attention of every citizen has been directed to the subject of reserve forces as the result of President Eisenhower's warning that a strong and combat-ready reserve is paramount to the defense of America, the strongest reserve force in being today—the National Guard—is brought into sharp focus.

In every war of our nation our militia has served. In the World Wars and in the Korean conflict, the National Guard mobilized and trained hundreds of thousands of civilian soldiers. The colors of our nation's National Guard carry the battle streamers of nearly every major campaign in which this country has been engaged. The Guard has a proud and long history.

It is not the desire of peace-loving Americans to support a fully mobilized army, air and sea force. Nor is it economically possible for us to support such a force. The answer then is the strong reserve urged by the President.

The National Guard is the most active and ready reserve in existence today.

Actively training—on the ground and in the air—are nearly 400,000 officers and men, a substantial proportion of them combat veterans of World War II and Korea.

These men—citizen-soldiers and 100 per cent volunteers—are in more than 5600 organized and equipped federally-recognized units in more than 2000 cities and towns in the 48 States, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska. It is imperative that we keep our Guard up.

LAW IN ACTION

Negotiable Instruments and the Exchanges

We took a big step forward when we invented negotiable instruments. We no longer had to barter our goods. Nor did we have to risk sending money afar to pay bills. Instead, we could exchange pieces of paper—orders or promises to pay; checks, money orders, notes, etc.

With them world trade picked up. And some problems arose.

1. Traders were often too busy to go out and find someone to exchange papers with.

So meeting places sprang up where traders could exchange papers with each other. But even at these "Exchanges" it was hard to find someone with another piece of paper calling for the exact sum as yours. Hence, in time, brokers.

You turned your papers over to the brokers. Their job: to buy and sell the papers and thus cancel the promises against the orders to pay. For this, they got a fee, or they bought the paper at a "discount."

2. Another problem: To make sure people paid their debts,

So, a new kind of court grew up to serve the Exchanges. These courts were dubbed "dusty feet" courts. The men litigants came many miles and were dusty from the road. In time these courts set up customs and laws to settle disputes. The courts did such a good job that much of their commercial law is in force today. With refinements, these laws now govern the exchange of paper all over the world.

As world trade grew, we needed uniform laws. So much international law grew out of our use of negotiable instruments. You find it not only in courts but also in arbitrations all over the world.

For trade to prosper, any bill has to hold good wherever people buy or sell in the world market.

Today, negotiable instruments bought and sold on the great exchanges of the world make trading easy, quick and practical. But it's the law—which can enforce them—that gives them their value.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

A Fair Question



OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

THIS OL' WORLD, beset by troubles, somehow manages to get along. . . . war here, war there, prison riots, radiation fall-outs, and so forth. Seems as though we've gotten used to calamity. But those little troubles . . . they're the ones that'll drive a fellow off his rocker.

Station yourself on a crowded street corner and watch the expressions of people walking by. Their faces tell little of what is going on inside their heads. Don't let this fool you however. Every man and woman is a skinkful of meat held up by two legs . . . forever seething with some kind of emotion.

TAKE THE GUY who is charged with biting his wife's nose off. Thought here since Aug. 14, 1953, someone spotted him in Sarasota, Fla. He was arrested. "He and his wife had some words," was the explanation.

And the man whose wife sued him for divorce because he stole her false teeth. He denied stealing them, saying: "My wife started going out with other men after I gave her the teeth as a birthday present. I was just taking them back to protect the sanctity of my home and marriage."

While in the molar department, we find that a few young men in these parts are troubled because they don't have enough teeth to join the police force. They need at least 20 natural teeth, with a certain number of useful contacts. Uh . . . "useful contacts" are defined as opposed molars of opposed incisor teeth.

THE FAMED "Mr. Anthony," who has long been giving advice to people in trouble, has been having a little of his own lately. He's suing a guy for \$296,450 over some sort of a TV film agreement. Now a lawyer's giving Mr. Anthony advice.

Americans are wondering about a sad-eyed Boxer dog that hangs out in a saloon at Warrington, Eng. The dog

leaves the pub whenever an American walks in. "He gets along with everybody but Americans," says the bar owner. "I don't know how he recognizes them, but he does."

Palmitists are trying to establish a spot in the sun for themselves here. They want the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to repeal the ordinance that prohibits fortune-telling.

TAXPAYERS who might be worrying about the diminishing amount of lettuce in their wallets should be interested in the bill introduced by Assemblyman Augustus F.

Hawkins (Dem.) Los Angeles. He proposes construction of an overhead monorail rapid transit system costing about \$750,000.

Extending to or over the traffic-jammed city? Heck no . . . from Los Feliz Blvd. to the Griffith Park Zoo.

CHARLES MYERS (Dem.), another solon, wants to install antennae over every tunnel in California so your car radio doesn't fade out while you're driving through. This shouldn't cost more than a few hundred thousand dollars.

Oh those Democrats!

THE MAIL BOX

Courtesy in Torrance

Editor, Torrance HERALD:

It is rather disturbing to read in one of our leading papers in an article written by a well-known writer, that the modern world is without courtesy and beginning to lack good manners, and that the basic philosophy of life is materialism, or denial of the spirit.

Courtesy is politeness of manners, combined with kindness, shown in behavior toward others. It is a movement of reverence and affability, making it easy to admit others to free conversation without reserve.

A few days ago we had a sudden heavy rain storm that brought shoppers hurrying to the nearest shelter. A number found shelter in a store entrance, and immediately, without any introductions and without knowing the names of any of the others in the gathered crowd, they were talking. The first lull was shattered with this breathtaking observation. It takes something like a shower or disaster to get people to talk freely. We are not a discourteous people, and we do not want to appear so. It

is just that we have a job to do (shopping), and we like to get it done with the least amount of time and effort. Then the rain stopped.

Next day, some of the before-mentioned crowd met, but they were no longer strangers. They loved to talk and to be courteous. Words came easily without reserve, as if they had known each other a long time.

In Matthew, the 21st chapter, the children are singing praises in the temple. This displeased the priests and the scribes. Jesus said unto them, "Ye, have ye never read out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfect praise" (freedom and speech and courtesy), and in Luke, the Pharisees asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples. He answered that if they should hold their peace the stones would cry out.

Does this mean that if the basic philosophy of life is materialism or the denial of the spiritual, that the stones would immediately cry praises if the populace remained quiet or discourteous?

We in Torrance believe in freedom of speech, and will not be discourteous or materialistic.

R. JAMES LITTLE
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AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

I guess it is a rather popular pastime to predict the outcome of questions of national interest, from the fate of the United States prisoners in Red China to the candidacy of President Eisenhower in 1956. On both of these subjects I read the predictions of "experts" who absolutely disagree. Each of them presents convincing arguments to support his case. The public who reads the predictions make some of their own. In any gathering predictions are floating about with gusto and zest. The most you can say for the average predictor is that he is having fun. He craves attention, and almost any positive prediction makes him the life of the party.

If predicting were confined to the parlor party, it would pass for fun along with bingo and bridge. It is when predicting takes on official significance, on questions of life and death for a nation, that it becomes an unfortunate and dangerous habit. For predicting the future trend of international or national affairs, with so many components of history and human nature involved, rests only with a power universally acknowledged as God's alone. And God has not been known to be involved in current predicting these days.

There is a great difference between an official opinion and a prediction. Predicting takes an air of positiveness, which in the field of world affairs can result in irreparable damage to public morale, if it turns out to be in error. Honest men of authority have been known to make honest mistakes in their public expression on vital matters. Public officials have been known to express loose predictions for political or other selfish purposes, which have endangered national security. The truly wise statesman seldom offers predictions, unless he and he alone has absolute control of the situation involved. This reporter shudders each time he hears anyone say, "I predict" on any question involving more than the ability of the predictor to bring about.

Wrong Guesses on War and Peace

At this very moment the decision of "War or Peace" rests on less than 25 men in the world. Any of them (Malenkov, Mao Tse-tung, Churchill, Tito, Nehru, Chiang Kai-shek, Eisenhower, etc.) can light the fuse that might destroy civilization as we know it today. These political leaders are recognized authorities on the subject of war or peace. They know secrets the public never knows. They confine these secrets to few trusted advisers.

Take our country, for instance. President Eisenhower, Secretary Dulles, the chiefs of staff, the Cabinet (Security Council) represent our greatest authority on war or peace. If such sources have been known to be wrong in their opinions, calculations and predictions . . . imagine the danger of error among less authoritative sources. And presidents and secretaries of state and military leaders have been very wrong in recent years on some very critical issues involving peace and war.

For instance, on June 20, 1950 I arrived in New York from a tour of Korea that spring. Every sign in Korea pointed to a Red take-over. General MacArthur told us in Tokyo "that war was imminent." But on June 20, 1950, I read a headlined statement from President Truman to the effect that MacArthur was wrong and that "we are closer to peace today than we have been at any time since the end of World War II." The Korean Reds attacked five days later.

In October, 1939, General MacArthur sent a report for the Congress from Manila which was inserted in the Congressional Record. It said in part: "A successful invasion of the Philippines by Japan would take 500,000 men, \$10 billion, tremendous casualties and a minimum of three years." It took the Japanese just five months to do it with less than 150,000 troops.

On May 11, 1941, Herbert Hoover said: "To invade Hitler's empire will take 40 million tons of ships and we can't produce them in less than 10 years." We produced 50 million tons in four years.

On June 23, 1941, General Marshall said: "It is likely that the Russians will collapse within a month." This was one day after Hitler invaded Russia. As it turned out, Russia lasted four years and collapsed Hitler.

In August, 1941, Senator Taft said on the floor of the Senate: "My opinion is that peace is infinitely safer today than a year ago." Four months later the United States was at war.

On Dec. 6, 1941 (one day before Pearl Harbor) President Roosevelt said to his cabinet: "A large Japanese naval force is proceeding southward to attack Thailand." The Japanese actually were 7000 miles the other way attacking Pearl Harbor.

On March 20, 1947, Secretary of State Acheson said in a Congressional hearing: "The Chinese government of Chiang Kai-shek is not approaching collapse. It is not threatened by defeat from the Communists. The war with the Communists is going on much as it has for the last 20 years." In December, 1949, the Chinese Nationalists were totally defeated.

On June 11, 1948, President Truman said: "I got well acquainted with Stalin and he's just a good old Joe. He's a decent fellow, but a prisoner of the Politburo." During the Berlin airlift, Truman called Stalin "a ruthless dictator."

On Oct. 15, 1950, General MacArthur expressed belief that the Korean war would end by Thanksgiving and the Eighth Army would be withdrawn by Christmas. The Chinese Reds attacked within a week and the war continued until July 27, 1953.

In December, 1952, President Eisenhower, upon his return from Korea, said: "I shall never be swayed from our objective of total victory. We shall defeat the Communists in Korea." On July 27, 1953, I stood inside the "peace building," built by Chinese Reds at Panmunjon, and watched General Harrison sign for the United States history as Americans, general signed an armistice in defeat.

On March 29, 1954, Secretary Dulles said: "The Communists can't win in Indo-China. We'll see to that." The Communists did win in Indo-China within 90 days. If such top authorities can be wrong in their opinions and predictions, imagine the predictions of the average citizen on matters of national or international scope.

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914
Torrance Herald
Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, California, Thursday and Friday. Entered as second class matter Jan. 29, 1914, at Post Office at Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

1619 Grammey Ave.
FA 8-1000
KING WILLIAMS, Publisher
GLENN W. PEEL, General Mgr.
REID L. BUNDY, Managing Editor

Adjudicated a legal newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 21870, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Subscription Rates:
By Carrier, 30c a Month.
Mail Subscriptions \$3.00 per year. Circulation office Fairfax 8-4004.

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WHERE AMERICANS PAY

IT'S A FACT

By JERRY CAHILL



BLACK BART
California's most famous pirate
WHO ALWAYS LEFT A POEM IN THE SCENE OF HIS CRIME, WAS CAPTURED BY MODERN CRIME-DETECTION METHODS!
A "JEKYLL-HYDE" CHARACTER, HE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A PROMINENT SAN FRANCISCOAN BY LAURENCE MARK ON A CLIFF HE DROPPED WHILE ROBBING A STAGE!

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